

# The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

April 2016

## Crime Lab makes complicated move

Just some of the people and things that will be needed to move the Kansas City Regional Crime Laboratory and its contents – like more than \$4 million worth of scientific equipment and hundreds of thousands of pieces of evidence – to its new home at 2645 Brooklyn in May include:

- 11 moving and equipment vendors – some flown in from other states
- Tactical and Traffic officers
- Members and/or contractors of the FBI, ATF and State of Missouri
- Instrument calibration and certification specialists
- All the lab staff
- Lots of trucks, some refrigerated
- Almost \$200,000
- An armored vehicle.

A move of this size could be a logistical nightmare, but Lab staff has been preparing for it since January 2015, Crime Lab Director Linda Netzel said.

“I’m stunned at how well it’s come together,” she said. “I shouldn’t be. The staff always does tremendous work.”

Each section had to put together a moving plan: what equipment could go offline at what time, when it could be packed, and how all of that could impact casework as little as possible. Netzel said they had to consider everything from maintaining the chain of custody for evidence like DNA samples (60,000 of them) to how scientific equipment warranties and service agreements would be impacted by the move.

Different vendors are needed to properly uninstall, pack, transport, reinstall and recertify specialized equipment, like the four Firearms and Tool Marks microscopes that cost about



The Kansas City Regional Crime Laboratory is taking three weeks to move all equipment and evidence to its new location at 2645 Brooklyn, above. Below, Firearms and Toolmarks Section Supervisor Kathryn May showed how the guns have been prepared for moving.



cases – doing all that’s needed on the scientific equipment before it moves and then write the reports later, when the equipment is being reinstalled and calibrated.

Director Netzel said there are many things she and the staff

\$80,000 each, for example.

“If that’s not done right and one lens gets knocked loose, we have to wait for the manufacturer to repair it, and that gets us behind in casework,” Director Netzel said.

After consulting with other crime lab directors around the country who had undertaken facility moves, Director Netzel decided to have her staff pack everything but the specialized equipment. The Traffic Enforcement Unit will escort the moving company vendors on their journey from the old lab at 6633 Troost to 2645 Brooklyn to further reduce the risk of an accident. Tactical Team members will load and transport all firearms and live ammunition in their Bearcat armored vehicle. The FBI,

ATF and State of Missouri will have to physically relocate the servers for the AFIS (fingerprint), CODIS (DNA) and NIBIN (firearms and tool marks) databases.

All told, the lab will be down from April 25 to May 16. Crime Scene Investigation services will remain uninterrupted. Director Netzel said they’ve worked out an agreement with the Johnson County, Kan., Crime Laboratory and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Laboratory for them to assist with any high-priority casework during that time. She also directed staff to frontload their

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# 1st sworn member hits 35 years of service

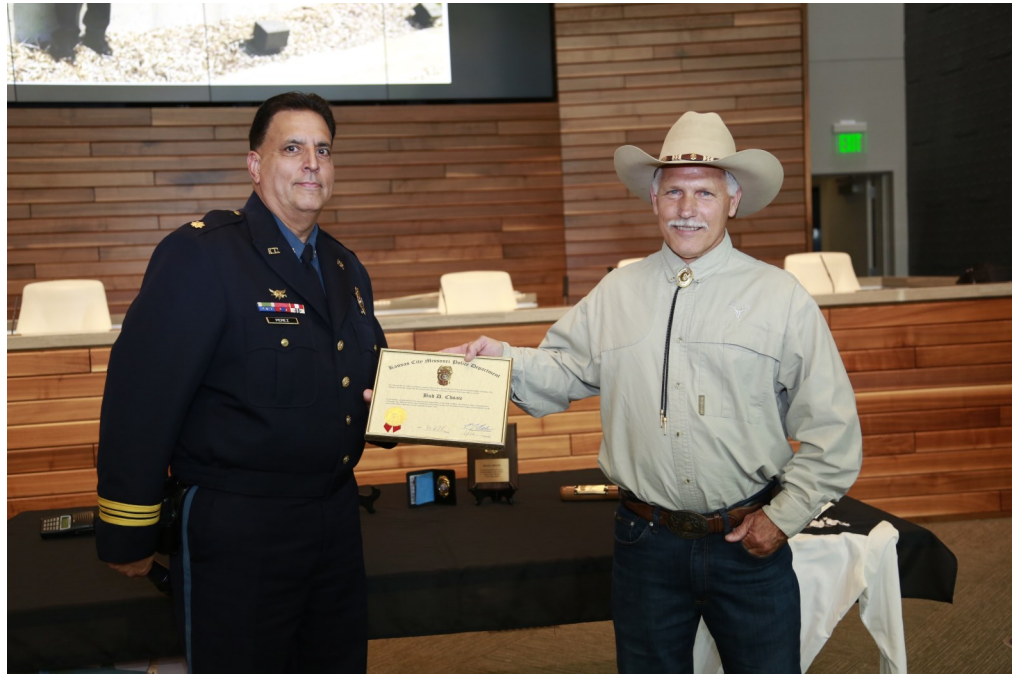
When Sergeant Bud Choate retired from KCPD on April 20, he became the first sworn member in the history of the department to leave with 35 years of service.

To better stabilize the pension system, the Board of Police Commissioners increased the law enforcement years of service for mandatory retirement from 32 to 35 in 2013. (Two years before that, the Board raised it from 30 to 32 years. It had been 30 years for decades.)

State statute still only allows for 32 years of creditable service, but officers can continue to work three more years without it being credited to them in the Retirement System. Age 65 remains the age at which an officer must retire.

Sergeant Choate has a bit before he hits that. He plans to continue working as a KCPD reserve officer and at Royals games.

A couple more law enforcement members could hit 35 years of service, but that won't be until 2018, according to Kansas City Police Employees' Retirement System Director Jim Pyle.



**Major Louis Perez presented Sergeant Bud Choate with his retirement certificate on April 20. Sergeant Choate is the first law enforcement member at KCPD to reach 35 years of service.**

## News in Brief

### Tip-A-Cop brings in money for Special Olympics Missouri



The annual Tip-A-Cop event took place at area Corner Café restaurants in Riverside, Independence and Kansas City, North, on April 16. Officers were waiters working for tips to raise money for Special Olympics Missouri. Check and credit card donations are still being processed with \$12,882 already collected.



### CRIME LAB MOVE, CONT. FROM P. 1

are looking forward to about the newly constructed lab. One of the biggest is environmental control. Despite numerous repairs, the HVAC system in the Troost lab often had the testing rooms at 55 degrees in the winter and 90 in the summer. Those extreme temperatures take a toll not just on staff, but also on equipment and delicate evidence. At one time, 25 percent of DNA casework had to be repeated because of environmental conditions in the building.

Lab staff members also are excited about the 20,000 additional square feet of space.

Instead of working three to a cubicle as some did, everyone will have their own space. All the laboratories also now have wall-to-wall windows, where there had been none before.

The whole place was designed to improve process flow. Netzel said lab staff had a great deal of input into the building's design, and they strategically placed sections next to each other that work together frequently.

The Property and Evidence Unit also has a new facility attached to the new lab. Netzel said this greatly will improve efficiency by changing the trips between the Lab and the

Property and Evidence facility to steps instead of miles, like it had been before.

Not only had the old building – a former pharmaceutical research facility – been too small with poor environmental controls, it also had an inadequate supply of electricity and a fire suppression system that could destroy testing equipment. No more.

"The bottom line is the older building was not designed to do the work we do, and this new building is designed to do what we do," Netzel said. "This is purpose-built to be a crime laboratory."



## Upcoming Events

May 2

**CARE Team Golf  
Tournament**

May 10

**Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting**

**Citizens Police Academy  
Graduation**

May 19

**Memorial Service**

**156th EOC Graduation**

June 14

**Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting**

The Informant is a  
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Media Unit  
(816) 234-5170  
www.kcpd.org

## Officially Speaking

### Awards

#### ***Special Unit Citation***

Shoal Creek Patrol Division Impact Unit  
Media Unit

#### ***Life-Saving Award***

Officer David Adair  
Officer William Hakes  
Officer Matthew Oropeza  
Officer James Peeler  
Officer Christopher Sticken  
Officer Jeremy White

#### ***Meritorious Service Award***

Officer Kevin Gooch  
Detective Mary Kincheloe  
Officer Samuel Leslie  
Detective Steffan Roetheli  
Detective Gary Snyder  
Supervisor Rita Garcia

#### ***Crisis Intervention Team Award***

Sergeant John Bryant

#### ***Certificate of Commendation***

Captain Mark Hatcher  
Captain Justin Kobolt  
Sergeant Jonathan Rivers  
Sergeant Marcus Smith  
Sergeant Bret Whitworth  
Master Patrol Officer Joseph Andrus  
Officer William Hakes  
Officer Thomas Kartman  
Officer Jared Lanaman  
Officer Ann Murphy  
Officer J.D. Pettey  
Officer Vickie Rabideaux-Stous  
Officer Ethan Skinner  
Officer Matthew Smith  
Officer Johnie Wyatt  
Officer Michael Zaring

#### ***Distinguished Service Medal***

Officer David Adair  
Officer Adam Baker  
Officer Christopher Blevins  
Officer Mark Johnson  
Officer Ian Weintraub

#### ***Medal of Valor***

Sergeant Darrin Wilson  
Officer Jeremy Gragg

### Promotions

#### **To Manager**

Kristine Reiter

#### **To Sergeant**

Shawn Campbell  
Peter Cutcliff  
Tiffany Davis  
Garry Eastwood  
Isaac Freestone  
Jason Gammill  
Elizabeth Gentry  
Donie Lynn Hoffman  
Michael Jones  
Salatha Jones  
Michael Luster  
Robbie McLaughlan  
Chase Moraczewski  
Barry Nolan  
Jason Quint  
Venasa Ray  
Lorenzo Simmons  
Christopher Toigo  
Andrew Uptegrove  
Robert Wisdom  
Tommy Woods

#### **To Captain**

Paul Luster  
Joseph Mabin  
Ryan Mills  
Doug Niemeier  
Jonathan Patton  
Christopher Young

### Retirements

Sergeant Sabe "Bud" Choate  
Sergeant John Witcig  
Detective Robert Delameter  
Detective Gregory Pelter  
Assistant Manager Darrell Cooper  
Building Operations Tech Patricia Stobbe

### Obituaries

Retired Officer Daniel Burns  
Fiscal Administrator Alfreda Boyd

The mission of the  
Kansas City Missouri  
Police Department  
is to protect and serve  
with professionalism,  
honor and integrity.

# IN REMEMBRANCE



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

May 19, 2016  
10 a.m.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
1125 LOCUST



To **HONOR** fallen officers in Kansas City who **GAVE** their **LIVES** in service to others.

Kansas City Missouri Police Department  
1125 Locust  
Kansas City, MO 64106